WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A separating device for separating edge portions from a glass panel, said glass panel having a width and thickness, said device comprising a handle and a slotted plate connected to said handle, said slotted plate having upper and lower panel engaging surfaces defining a recess of approximately the same width and thickness as said glass panel to be separated.

2. The separating device of claim 1 further comprising a force gauge attached to said handle for measuring the force applied to said handle.

3. The separating device of claim 1 wherein said slotted plate is comprised of an electrostatic dissipative material disposed to contact said glass panel.

4. The separating device of claim 3 wherein said electrostatic dissipative material is a polyacetal plastic alloy.

5. A separation apparatus for separating a glass panel etched with semiconductor circuitry, said separation apparatus comprising a stage having a layer of electrostatic dissipative material disposed to contact said glass panel; said glass panel being scored to define an inner working area and outer edge portions to be removed, at least one of said edge portions being located outside the periphery of said stage when said glass panel is in contact with said separation apparatus.

6. The separation apparatus of claim 5 further comprising locating pins to precisely locate said glass panel on said separation apparatus.

7. The separation apparatus of claim 5 wherein said separation apparatus can rotate so that a second edge portion may be removed without relocating said glass panel with respect to said separation apparatus.

8. A method for separating edge portions of a glass panel etched with semiconductor circuitry, said method comprising:

scoring said glass panel to outline at least one edge portion of said glass panel to be removed;

applying a force evenly along a substantial portion of said at least one edge portion to be removed;

measuring said force with a force gauge; and

controlling an amount of force applied to said glass panel to use a minimal amount of force necessary to separate said at least one edge portion.

9. The method of separating glass panels of claim 5 wherein said force is applied manually using a separation handle.

10. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

placing said glass panel upon a top surface of a separating apparatus; and

locating said glass panel upon said separating apparatus at a predetermined position with respect to a reference point, in order to locate a scoring line on the flat panel at a desired position relative to the separating apparatus;

11. The method of separating a glass panel of claim 7 further comprising:

applying a similar force to the remaining edge portions to be removed without relocating said glass panel on said separating apparatus.

12. The method of separating a glass panel of claim 7 wherein said top surface of said separating apparatus is made of an electrostatic dissipative material.

13. The method of separating a glass panel of claim 7 wherein said

glass panel is located by utilizing multiple locating pins to position said glass panel on said separating apparatus.

14. The method of separating a glass panel of claim 10 wherein said glass panel floats above said separating apparatus while said glass panel is being located.

15. The method of separating a glass panel of claim 11 wherein said separating apparatus provides a vacuum to hold said glass panel tightly against said separating apparatus once said glass panel is located on said separating apparatus.

16. A method of separating edge portions of a glass panel etched with semiconductor circuits, said method comprising:

scoring said glass panel to outline at least one edge portion of said glass panel to be removed;

applying a force evenly along a substantial portion of said at least one edge portion to be removed;

placing said glass panel proximate the top surface of a separating apparatus;

pumping gas under said glass panel so that said glass panel floats above said separating apparatus;

locating said glass panel using locating pins;

providing a vacuum to hold said glass panel tightly against said separating apparatus;

applying a force to the edge of said glass panel until said edge is removed;

measuring said force with a force gauge;

controlling an amount of force applied to said glass panel to use a minimal amount of force necessary to separate said at least one edge portion;

applying a similar force to the remaining edge portions to be removed without relocating said glass panel on said separating apparatus.